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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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26 January 1968

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Rumanian Visitors: The high-level Rumanian delegation in Hanoi this week had been there on an earlier visit only about a month ago.

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This may be part of Premier Maurer's attempt to bring the war to the negotiating table. Shortly after his own return from Hanoi last September, Maurer told Ambassador Davis that Rumania intended to try to push the two sides together. A further Rumanian effort along this line may emerge in high-level talks the Rumanians have scheduled this week with Pope Paul and Harold Wilson and with Soviet leaders.

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Peking Warns North Vietnamese About "Peace Talks Fraud": Peking's long-standing concern over the possibility that the Vietnamese Communists may be "misled" into entering negotiations was clearly underscored in China's Liberation Army Daily on 24 January. The article warned the Vietnamese that the US was continuing the "peace talks fraud" and declared that "so long as the Vietnamese continue the war, they will surely win final victory."

The article was also in keeping with repeated indications of Chinese displeasure with North Vietnamese moves which could be construed as establishing a more reasonable position on the question of talks. This is also currently illustrated by Peking's continuing silence on Trinh's "will talk" statement of 29 December as well as on his earlier formulation on the subject issued a year ago.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi on Antiwar Activities: Hanoi radio's international service on 24 January carried a routine roundup of assorted American antiwar activities. It notes that another American soldier has deserted to Sweden and mentions recent statements by various antiwar organizations. It says that "thousands of American youths" support an appeal to refuse service in Vietnam. It notes protests against the prosecution of Dr. Spock and others opposing the war, and an appeal from a group of religious personalities calling on the US to stop the bombing of the North.

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